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Statement of

James C. Fletcher

before the

Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences
United States Senate

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

It is a privilege to appear before you today. With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I will summarize the biographical sketch which has been provided to the Committee, and then answer any questions the Committee may have.

I was born in Millburn, New Jersey, on June 5, 1919. My parents were Dr. Harvey Fletcher, who was a research director at the Bell Telephone Laboratories, and Mrs. Lorena Chipman Fletcher.

I received an A.B. degree in Physics from Columbia University in 1940 and a Ph.D. in Physics from the California Institute of Technology in 1948. After receiving my A.B. degree, I worked as a research physicist for the Navy Bureau of Ordnance and later at the Cruft Laboratory, Harvard

University, and from 1942 to 1945 I was an instructor and research physicist at Princeton University. I was a Teaching Fellow at California Institute of Technology while earning my doctorate.

In 1948 I joined the Hughes Aircraft Company as Director of the Theory and Analysis Laboratory in the Electronics Division, and held this position until 1954 when I joined the Ramo-Wooldridge Corporation as Director of Electronics in the Guided Missile Research Division. This Division became Space Technology Laboratories, a subsidiary of Ramo-Wooldridge, with technical responsibility for all United States intercontinental ballistic missiles, including Atlas, Titan and Minuteman, as well as the Thor intermediate range ballistic missile. The laboratories also developed the nation's first space probe, Pioneer 4, for NASA. As Director of Electronics I was responsible for development of all guidance, communications and tracking equipment for the above missiles.

In 1958 I was an organizer and President of the Space Electronics Corporation, which was engaged primarily in the development and manufacturing of electronics components for military, space and communications applications.

In 1960 Space Electronics Corporation was sold to the Aerojet-General Corporation and a year later Space Electronics Corporation was merged with the spacecraft division of Aerojet to become the Space-General Corporation, a subsidiary of Aerojet. I served as President of Space-General Corporation until 1962 when I became Chairman of the Board of Space-General and Systems Vice-President of Aerojet-General Corporation.

In 1964 I was elected to my present position of President of the University of Utah.

My memberships in professional organizations, and my publications and patents are listed on my biographical sketch. I have been privileged to serve as an advisor on a number of Government advisory panels including the President's Science Advisory Committee, and to serve as a consultant to various offices of the Department of Defense, and to the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. Early in my career, from 1950 to 1954, I was a member of the Subcommittee on Stability and Control of NASA's predecessor, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics.

I am married to the former Fay Lee of Brigham City, Utah, and we have four children: Virginia, 22; Mary Susan, 20; James Stephen, 17; and Barbara Jo, 12.

I am honored by President Nixon's nomination of me to serve as the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. If the nomination is confirmed by the Senate, I will leave the University of Utah as soon as possible, and devote my full attention and energy to performing the duties of Administrator.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement. I will be pleased to answer your questions.